

Family events on the incline at unit

Story by: Lt. Shannon Scherer
179th Public Affairs Office

It is no secret to anyone the 179th Family Support Group is working overtime to provide quality service and programs to unit members and families.

The 2002 Family Day was possibly one of the largest family events at the base to date. The festivities started off with the unit and several individuals being recognized for their outstanding service to the Guard and their communities. In fact, during the morning formation, Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan, assistant adjutant general for Air, presented the 179th with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

"Receiving this award is a cumulative effort," said Col. Rich Green, unit commander. "It takes everybody."

It certainly took everybody to make Family Day a successful event. From mini-F-16 rides to squadron cookouts to a magic show, it was obvious that a lot

of planning took place on the part of unit members and the family support group to make it happen.

But the family support group isn't slowing down just because Family Day is over. Instead they are gearing up for a plethora of other activities.

The annual golf tournament is scheduled for Sept. 5, 2002 at Oak Tree Golf Course. This event raises money to provide scholarships to children, grandchildren and spouses of active or retired 179th AW members.

This year two \$500 scholarships were awarded to Jessica Ball of Lexington and Haley Dotson of Greenwich. The scholarships can be used for tuition, room and board and books for students enrolled full-time at a college, university, trade or business school.

The family support group has also



Members of the Comm. Squadron prepare lunch during Family Day 2002.

gone into the sales business. They are selling C-130 pewter holiday ornaments, tote blankets with the 179th crest and black embroidered tee shirts with the 179th crest on the pocket.

For more information about your family support program and activities call their office at (419) 520-6600 and help support their efforts.

Services flight realizes 'it takes a village'

The 179th Services Flight got a real lesson in teamwork when more than three-fourths of the flight was deployed to Oman, Diego Garcia and Kyrgyztan.

It wasn't really the people who deployed that learned about teamwork, as it was the nine members left at home to do the jobs of those who left.

"Of the nine, one is out on maternity leave, one is admin, one is supply and then the commander," said Tech Sgt. Misty Welch. "That only left five cooks. Four of which are new to the unit within the past six months and the other is actually our Prime RIBS technician."

But with the help of a few augmenters and friends from the 180th Fighter Wing



in Toledo, no one at the 179th seemed to notice the dramatic change.

Members of the 180th assisted on drill weekends starting in April and student flight members of the 179th

worked on the serving line through July.

"I like being here with a short crew," said Senior Airman Jessica Cauvel. "It gives us (new airmen) a chance to show how much we learned in tech school and that we can do the job."

The flight came together in July for the first time since March. A welcome home ceremony was held on July 13 and employers and media heard about the trials and tribulations of those deployed for so long.

"Just as those overseas came together and showed unity between the forces, so did we here at home," said Senior Airman Ladd Sonnenberg. "We're all here to do the same job."